

Serial No. 10/600,359  
Amendment date April 25, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2006

**REMARKS**

**Reconsideration And Allowance  
Are Respectfully Requested.**

Claims 1, 6, 11, 12 and 13 are currently pending. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. No new matter has been added. No new claims have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would first like to thank Examiners Smith and Airapetian for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on April 18, 2006. During the course of this interview, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0082733 to Boyden et al. (Boyden) was discussed as it relates to the pending claims. After discussing Boyden in substantial detail Applicants agreed to submit claims further defining the present distribution system in an effort to overcome the disclosure of Boyden.

As such, Applicant has amended claim 1 so as to define a system for the distribution of available flavors offered by an operator of the system. The system includes a plurality of consumer workstations linked to a central processing hub. The central processing hub includes means for providing consumers with information regarding flavors. The means for providing includes a flavor search system through which a consumer may identify desired flavor based upon a series of input criteria. The criteria include flavor descriptors, flavor legal status chosen from the group consisting of artificial, natural and artificial, natural flavor, natural type and natural WONF, and usage categories selected from the group consisting of bakery, dairy, beverage, confections and oral care. The system further includes a search system associated with the central processing hub. The search

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system includes means for searching available flavors via flavor descriptors and flavor definitions and providing a search results list of available flavors fulfilling the flavor descriptor requirements and the flavor definition requirements.


In contrast to the claimed system, and as Applicants best understand Boyden, Boyden merely discloses a system for ordering flavors and/or fragrances. Boyden does not offer a search system as claimed, but appears to merely provide a system whereby consumers may input flavor criteria for subsequent made-to-order manufacturing.

With this in mind, the present system may be thought of as providing a parametric search, while Boyden is a made-to-order system. These are very different system types. As such, amended claim 1 is believed to overcome the prior art of record and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

As to those claims dependent upon independent claim 1, they are also believed to overcome the prior art of record for the reasons presented above.

It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested. If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



Howard N. Flaxman  
Registration No. 34,595

Welsh & Flaxman LLC  
2000 Duke Street, Suite 100  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 920-1122  
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